

Several current, past, and future NASA space missions continue to rely on Lab research and development.

The recently launched Dawn mission to asteroids Vesta and Ceres carries a gamma-ray and neutron detector built by the Lab.

The spectacularly successful Cassini spacecraft now orbiting Saturn is powered by LANL-supplied radioisotope thermoelectric generators and carries a pair of Lab-built ion-mass and ion-beam spectrometers.

The completed Genesis mission—despite a high-speed crash into the Utah desert during its 2004 return to Earth—yielded a vast amount of data now being analyzed by Lab researchers and others, significantly advancing our understanding of solar system evolution.

For the Mars Science Laboratory mission scheduled for launch in 2009, the Lab has built ChemCam, which will use laser pulses to dissolve rocks and employ spectrographs to determine the composition of the resulting gases.

Lab technologies play key roles in  
NASA space missions